

Message Text

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FOR LAKE WITH VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTY

FOL RPT LUSAKA 1318 ACTION SECSTATE INFO CAPETOWN DAR ES
SALAAM GABORONE KINSHASA LILONGWE LONDON MOSCOW MAPUTO PRETORIA
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UNCLAS LUSAKA 1318

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TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, ZA, RH
SUBJ: PRESIDENT KAUNDA ADVISES NATION OF THREAT BY RHODESIA
OF PREEMPTIVE STRIKES AGAINST ZAMBIA

REF: LUSAKA 1300 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT KAUNDA TOLD MAY 16 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT
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BRITISH-U.S. CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON RHODESIA WAS FREE TO GO
AHEAD AND USE LUSAKA AS A BASE OF OPERATIONS. ITS EFFORT
WILL HAVE TO BE MADE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF CONTINUED
MILITARY PRESSURE ON SMITH BY THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, AN
EFFORT WHICH ZAMBIA WILL NOT ABANDON SINCE IT IS COMPLI-
MENTARY TO THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. ALL FLIGHTS BETWEEN ZAMBIA
AND RHODESIA HAVE BEEN PROHIBITED AND THE ZAMBIAN

MILITARY HAS BEEN GIVEN ORDERS TO SHOOT ON SIGHT ANY AIR-CRAFT, CIVILIAN OR MILITARY, VIOLATING THE BAN. KAUNDA SPELLED OUT IAN SMITH WARNING, DELIVERED THROUGH THE BRITISH, THAT RHODESIA WILL MAKE PREEMPTIVE STRIKES AGAINST ZAPU BASES IN ZAMBIA IF OFFENSIVE ACTION AGAINST RHODESIA IS PREPARED FOR AND PLANNED IN ZAMBIA. HE EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT HMG HAD ACTED AS "POST OFFICE BOX" FOR SMITH, BUT SEEMED SOMEWHAT MOLIFIED BY PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN'S ASSURANCES THAT BRITAIN WOULD WARN RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA AGAINST ATTACKING ZAMBIA.

ZAMBIA HAS A DUTY TO DEFEND ITS COUNTRY AND KAUNDA SAID, "WE ARE GOING TO FIGHT." BRITAIN, FRANCE, AND U.S. WERE CALLED ON TO CUT OFF OIL SUPPLIES TO RHODESIA IN ORDER TO PARALYZE THE RHODESIAN MILITARY. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, KAUNDA SAID THAT ZAMBIA DID NOT NEED OUTSIDE MILITARY PERSONNEL AT THIS POINT, BUT THAT OFFERS OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE (WEAPONS) WOULD BE CONSIDERED FROM ANY SOURCE. BASED ON RELIABLE INFORMATION INDICATING THAT SOUTH AFRICA PARTICIPATED IN THE PLANNING OF THE RHODESIAN STRIKES INTO MOZAMBIQUE LAST FALL, ZAMBIA BELIEVES SOUTH AFRICA IS PLAYING SAME ROLE IN PLANNING OF RHODESIAN STRIKES AGAINST ZAMBIA. ZAMBIA FACES ONE OF ITS DARKEST HOURS BUT ZIMBABWEAN INDEPENDENCE IS NEAR. ZAMBIA, AS IN THE PAST, WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED. SMITH WAS WARNED THAT "THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE GRAVE IN RHODESIA, THAT OF SMITH, THE RHODESIAN FRONT AND RHODESIA." END SUMMARY.

1. ADDRESSING PRESS CONFERENCE AT STATE HOUSE MORNING OF MAYO 16 PRESIDENT KAUNDA TOLD ZAMBIANS OF IAN SMITH'S WARNING OF PREEMPTIVE MILITARY ACTION AGAINST ZAMBIA IF THE PATRIOTIC UNCLASSIFIED

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FRONT MOVES TO UNDERTAKE OFFENSIVE AGAINST RHODESIA FROM ZAMBIAN BASES. KAUNDA SAID PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN HAD ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MESSAGE FROM OWEN HAD BEEN SENT WITH THE FULL AUTHORITY OF HMG. IN HIS MESSAGE TO KAUNDA CALLAGHAN HAD SAID THAT HE WOULD SEND MESSAGES CONDEMNING PREEMPTIVE ACTION TO BOTH RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA. KAUNDA HIGHLIGHTED OWEN MESSAGE AS THE FIRST INSTANCE OF "REBEL" RHODESIA USING ITS BRITISH "MASTERS AS A POST OFFICE BOX" TO CONVEY A WARNING OF ATTACK.

2. OTHER POINTS MADE BY KAUNDA IN HIS PREPARED STATEMENT WERE:

- THE JOINT BRITISH-U.S. CONSULTATIVE EFFORT IS FREE TO GO AHEAD AND USE LUSAKA AS A BASE, HOWEVER, ALL DIRECT FLIGHTS (CHARTER) FROM LUSAKA TO SALISBURY HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED.
- ZAMBIA WILL NOT CUT OFF ITS SUPPORT FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT MILITARY EFFORT AND BELIEVES THAT THE LINES OF MILITARY PRESSURE AND ATTEMPTS TO NEGOTIATE ARE COMPLIMENTARY.
- ZAMBIA HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO ATTACKS SINCE 1966 AND ZAMBIANS HAVE A DUTY TO DEFEND THEIR COUNTRY "WE ARE GOING TO FIGHT."
- GOVERNMENTS OF BRITAIN, FRANCE, AND THE U.S. SHOULD CUT OFF

THE SUPPLY OF OIL TO RHODESIA, WITHOUT WHICH THE SMITH MILITARY MACHINE WOULD BE PARALYZED.

---ALL COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN THE SITUATION AS WELL AS FRIENDLY COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE SMITH THREAT, AND THIS IS THE TIME FOR "THE TRUE FRIENDS OF THE STRUGGLING MASSES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA TO SHOW THEIR TRUE FRIENDSHIP."

---ZAMBIA HARBORS NO ROMANTIC VIEW OF THE ARMED STRUGGLE, BUT BECAUSE OF LOVE FOR INDEPENDENCE, FREEDOM AND PEACE WITH JUSTICE, IT WILL STAND FIRM. ALREADY THE ZAMBIAN ARMED FORCES HAVE BEEN ALERTED AND ALL FLIGHTS BETWEEN ZAMBIA AND RHODESIA HAVE BEEN STOPPED, AND ORDERS TO SHOOT ON SIGHT ANY AIRCRAFT VIOLATING THE BAN ISSUED TO THE MILITARY.

---SMITH SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT "THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE GRAVE IN RHODESIA, THAT OF SMITH, THE RHODESIAN FRONT AND RHODESIA." ZAMBIA HAS NOT BEEN INTIMIDATED IN THE PAST AND WILL NOT BE NOW, "THE DARKEST HOUR COMES BEFORE THE DAWN AND IT IS NEAR, BUT THE SUNSHINE OF INDEPENDENCE IS NOW IN THE SKY."

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3. IN A QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD KAUNDA MADE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS:

---THE TERM "PREEMPTIVE STRIKE" HAS BEEN USED IN THE COMMUNICATION OWEN CONVEYED FROM SMITH AS INDICATED BY THE FULL TEXT OF OWEN'S MESSAGE WHICH HE READ.

---CALLAGHAN'S REPLY TO HIS QUERY ASKING IF OWEN'S MESSAGE HAD BEEN SENT WITH HIS KNOWLEDGE, WAS A "VERY GOOD MESSAGE," BUT HMG SHOULD HAVE WARNED SMITH BEFORE SMITH'S MESSAGE HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO HIM. KAUNDA ALSO READ FULL TEXT OF CALLAGHAN'S LETTER.

---IT IS NOT NECESSARY AT THIS TIME FOR ZAMBIA TO SEEK ASSISTANCE, BUT WHEN THE TIME COMES IT WILL ASK FOR ASSISTANCE FROM ITS FRIENDS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

---THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL HAD BEEN TOLD YESTERDAY OF THE THREAT AND HE WAS DISTURBED, BUT KAUNDA COULD NOT REVZAL WHAT STEPS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL MIGHT TAKE.

---HE HAD NO INFORMATION THAT THE 1965 RHODESIAN REBELLION WAS PLANNED WITH BRITISH GOVERNMENT CONNIVANCE, BUT FAULTED THZ U.K. FOR ITS STATEMENT THAT FORCE WOULD NOT BE USED IN RHODESIA. THIS HAD CLEARED THE WAY FOR UDI. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT EVERYWHERE ELSE IN THE BRITISH EMPIRE EXCEPT RHODESIA FORCE HAD BEEN USED AGAINST REBELS.

---HE IS RECONSIDERING ATTENDING THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE IN LONDON AND IF NEEDED IN ZAMBIA AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES HE WILL NOT ATTEND. OTHER VISITS ALREADY PLANNED MIGHT HAVE TO BE CANCELLED ON SHORT NOTICE.

---AT THIS TIME ZAMBIA HAS NO NEED FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM OUTSIDE, BUT DOES NEED WEAPONS. OFFERS OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE WILL BE CONSIDERED FROM ANY SOURCES, EVEN

FROM THE U.K.

---PN REPLY TO A QUERY AS TO WHETHER THE FIGHTING HAD STARTED ON THE ZAMBIAN BORDERS, HE OBSERVED THAT THERE HAD BEEN INCREASED RHODESIAN MOVEMENT OF FORCES IN THE BORDER AREA AND AN INCREASE OF INTRUSIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF ZAMBIAN AIR UNCLASSIFIED

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SPACE WHICH ZAMBIAN DEFENSIVE MOVES HAD HALTED EARLIER. KAUNDA STATED THERE HAD BEEN NOTHING MORE SERIOUS OR SPECIFIC THAN A RECENT EXCHANGE OF FIRING IN THE KASANGULW AREA PERPETRATED BY RHODESIAN YOUTHS CALLED INTO A FORM OF NATIONAL SERVICE. ---ZAMBIA HAS RELIABLE INFORMATION THAT THE RHODESIAN STRIKES INTO MOZAMBIQUE WERE PLANNED JOINTLY WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS AND ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT ASSUMES THAT ATTACKS ON ZAMBIA WOULD BE JOINTLY PLANNED BECAUSE IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR RHODESIA TO UNDERTAKE THEM ALONE. ---SMITH'S MESSAGE TO KAUNDA HAS BEEN SHARED WITH THE FRONT-LINE STATES, BUT THEIR REACTION IS A "STATE SECRET." ---ZAMBIAN RESIDENTS IN THE BORDER AREA HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO THE RHODESIAN WARNING. ---IT IS UP TO BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES TO FIT THEIR EFFORT TOWARDS NEGOTIATIONS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE MILITARY PRESSURE WHICH WILL BE MAINTAINED ON THE SMITH REGIME BECAUSE FIGHTING IS THE ONLY LANGUAGE WHICH SMITH UNDERSTANDS. SMITH MUST BE REMOVED, A NEW SITUATION CREATED AND THEN THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WILL NEGOTIATE THE PEACE. LOW

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